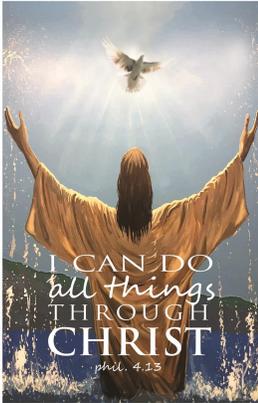


December Newsletter



I can live according to God's word.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the season of hope! Our Advent journey has begun! As the beautiful psalm on the first Sunday of Advent says, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!" Those are not easy words to live by during this busy time, with decorating, shopping, cooking and baking. It's not hard to forget that we are waiting with anticipation for the real celebration of Christmas, and that our pre-Christmas festivities

are merely a taste of the joy that is to come. It is wonderful to have parties and to share fun times with friends and family, but it is only when we celebrate our Saviour's birth at Christmas that we will truly rejoice. That is when we can welcome Christ into our hearts, and bask in the glow of His love and share that love with those who are closest to us. May God bless us on our Advent journeys.

Advent Assemblies

As a community, we will mark the weeks of Advent at our morning assemblies. Our morning prayers will focus on preparing ourselves to welcome Christ at Christmas, with the lighting of the

candles on our Advent wreath. Our final Advent assembly will be held on Friday, December 20 at 9:00am. Please join us for our assemblies if you are able.

Advent Breakfast!

Once again this year, our PEC invites everyone in our community to share a winter breakfast on Thursday, December 12 from 7:30 until 8:30am. All families are invited to come and have a cup of coffee or tea and a little sweet to start your day. In this busy time, we hope that you will drop in for even a few minutes with your children to meet other members of the St. Joseph's community. Please be reminded that children **must** be accompanied by an adult, as the staff will not be supervising them in the gym. We are looking forward to a wonderful crowd!

First Friday Mass

Our monthly Mass will be on Friday, December 6 at 9:00am at the church. The Mass will be prepared by the grade three class. Please join us in our liturgical celebration if you are able.

Important Dates:

December 2nd, 9th
16th & 20th – Advent Assemblies
6th – First Friday Mass
11th – Purdys orders to be picked up afterschool
12th – Advent Breakfast
17th – Penitential Services for students
18th – Christmas Concert and Bake Sale
20th – Christmas Colour Day. No money required
20th – January
5th Christmas Holidays

January 6th – School re-opens at 8:40am
January 8th – Bottle Drive

Purdys

The Purdy's chocolates will be available for pick-up on Wednesday, Dec. 11. Please claim your chocolates promptly, as we cannot guarantee that they will be stored at an appropriate temperature at the school, and we certainly don't want them to spoil! Thank you to all of our families who supported this Christmas fundraiser. We hope you enjoy your treats over the holiday season.

Christmas Colour Day

To celebrate the season, the students are invited to wear Christmas colours instead of their uniforms on Thursday, December 20. There will be no charge for

Penitential Services

As part of our preparations for the coming of Christ, the students from grades three through seven will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the church on Tuesday, December 17. Please help your children to prepare themselves for confession.

this Colour Day and the students may wear red, green, sparkles, or anything that shows their Christmas spirit. Be creative! We're looking forward to a festive day.

Christmas Concert and Bake Sale

The Christmas Musical will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 1:00pm (Matinee) and 7:00pm. The choir will begin our evening with some carols at 6:30pm. The students need to be at the school by 6:15pm. A list of costumes for each grade is attached.

As always, we will be holding a bake sale before and after the Christmas concert and we are asking for donations of baked goods to sell. All items must be wrapped or bagged, either individually (for example, a banana loaf) or in batches (for example, six cookies). Please bring your donations to the office on the morning of

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Colour Day in November. Together, we raised \$400.00 with which the grade two students will be able to make eight shoeboxes to be given as Christmas gifts to homeless women in our own city. Thank you also to Mrs. Capolongo and Ms. Pham for initiating this project, and to the grade two parents who are supporting them with their time and talents.

Dismissal for Christmas Holiday

The students will be dismissed at **12:00pm** on Friday, December 20 to begin their Christmas holidays.

Congratulations to Our Speech Arts Candidates

Congratulations to our intermediate students who participated in the St. Joseph's School Speech Arts Festival on November 26. It was a wonderful afternoon of celebrating the spoken word and we appreciate all of the time and effort that the students put into their presentations. Congratulations to the following students:
Andrew Silvestre, Clio Delantar, Jason Tran, Meekha Cherian, Anh Nguyen, Annabell Nguyen, Catia Diogo,

G-Anne Lovitos, Alicia Silvestre, Micaella Bento-Romano, Timothy Truong, Aden Nguyen, Amy Do, Angela Tran Cecilia Bui and Hugo Knitter. In addition, we would like to congratulate all of our students in grades four through seven, as each one of them presented either an individual poem or persuasive speech in their classrooms, as part of our Speech Arts program.

St. Patrick's Regional Secondary Open House

Anyone interested in attending the school in September 2020 is invited to St. Patrick's High School Open House on January 13th at 6:00pm. There will be a short presentation on "Life as a Celtic", a tour of the facility and the opportunity to meet our staff and many of our students and to get all of your questions answered.

This will be the **first** opportunity to pick up an **Application Package**. Please visit their web site www.stpats.bc.ca and click on **Information** and then read the **Information Booklet** for a comprehensive overview of our school.
NO ENTRANCE EXAM REQUIRED.

Looking Ahead

School will re-open on Monday, January 6 at the usual time of 8:40am. We will begin our year with Mass at the church at 9:00am that morning. We hope that many family members will be able to come and begin our New Year with our liturgical celebration. The students in Grades 4 and 5 will begin their swimming program on Tuesday, January 7. Permission slips will be sent out soon. Please remember to send your children to school with all of the necessary swimming gear so that they are ready to go. We will need parents to drive to swimming, so please let Mr. Dalessandro or Mrs. van der Kooi know if you are able to help us with this service.

Save Your Bottles

Please save your bottles and cans during the Christmas holidays, as we will have a bottle drive on Wednesday, January 8. On that morning, please bring your empties to the school parking lot, where they will be sorted and picked up at the end of the day. The money raised from this event will go to support co-curricular activities, such as field trips, in order to lessen the overall cost to parents. Thank you to Mr. Evans and to the grade seven students for their hard work in making this event a success.

CLASS COSTUMES
Christmas Concert Costumes
In a Little Stable

Dear Parents,

Our annual Christmas Concert is quickly approaching!! The dress rehearsal will be on Tuesday, December 17 at 1pm. The actors in the play will receive separate instructions regarding their costumes and the rest of the children will wear the clothing listed below. **Additional items for the costumes will be provided by the school.**

Kindergarten

boys – white school shirt and dark pants girls – white school shirts and black leggings or tights.

Grade One

long sleeved dark top and dark pants
girls - a silky scarf to wear over their heads as a veil
boys – a hand towel to wear as a headdress

Grade Two

long sleeved dark top and dark pants

Grade Three

bright coloured shirts and dark pants
an empty backpack

Grade Four

white school shirt and dark pants

Grade Five

white school shirt and dark pants

Grade Six

long sleeved dark top and dark pants

Grade Seven

winter clothes – jacket, hat, and scarf

Further details will be provided by classroom teachers.

Please don't feel that you have to purchase anything new for your child's costume. If you have any questions contact your child's teacher.